Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1990-91

Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board

92-01683/

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Letters of Transmittal

May 29, 1991

The Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, O.C., S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of
the Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the pleasure to submit to your Honour the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable J. Gary Lane, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

May 29, 1991

The Honourable J. Gary Lane, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

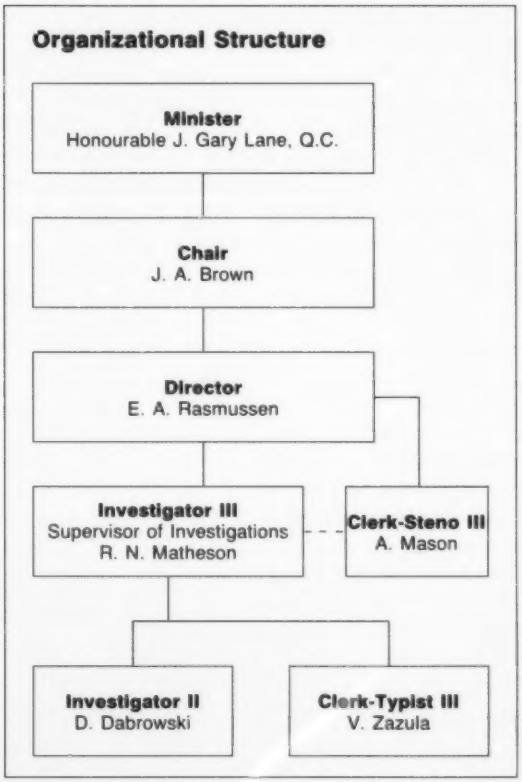
Dear Mr. Lane:

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor J. A. Brown, C.M., S.O.M.,
Chair

I. Organization



A. Board

The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to Section 77 of the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act. Members appointed in this fiscal year were Professor Jake Brown, Chair, Darwin Lackey, Vice-Chair, Arden Body, Elmer Lyke, Irene Smyth, Chester Minhinnick and Grant Payant.

B. Objectives

Part VI of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act is a program instituted to improve and stabilize the economic and social environment in rural Saskatchewan. Its primary objective is to ensure that residents or Saskatchewan corporations engaged in farming will own the majority of Saskatchewan agricultural lands.

The responsibility of the Board in administering the Act includes making or advising on policy decisions, hearing applications for exemption and extension, recommending amendments to the Act and Regulations, issuing Orders for Divestment, and recommending Court action for violations of the Act's provisions.

C. Administration

In the 1990/91 fiscal year, staff were required to process, investigate and document 693 transfers of land to non-resident individuals and 1,130 transfers to corporate interests. Staff also investigated and processed 224 applications for exemption and 235 applications for extension in time to comply with the legislation. In addition, staff responded to personal or written enquiries and monitored the activities of 313 open files carried over from the previous fiscal year.

II. Activities

A. Monitoring and Investigation

The Board monitored all changes of interest in rural land processed through eight land title offices in the province. 12,489 transfers totalling 3,768,379 acres were monitored. This resulted in 881 non-resident investigations and 571 corporate investigations by Board staff.

In this fiscal year, non-residents acquired title to 148,793 acres. The interests acquired resulted primarily from the special exemption provisions afforded non-resident relatives of present or past residents of Saskatchewan.

Individuals resident in Canada may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding 320 acres. One-hundred and thirty-four individuals purchased a total of 20,547 acres under this provision.

Individuals residing outside Canada may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding ten acres. Seven non-Canadians purchased a total of 48 acres under this provision.

Table I

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1988-89	565	125,692	748*
1989-90	673	159,395	875*
1990-91	693	148,793	881*

**One transfer may result in several individuals acquiring an interest.*

In this fiscal year, corporations acquired an interest in 899,856 acres. A majority of the land was acquired by corporate creditors under the special two year exemption provided for the realization, quit claim, settlement or other disposition of a security and by Saskatchewan corporations engaged in the business of farming.

Non-agricultural corporations that are majority owned by Saskatchewan residents or agricultural corporations may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding 320 acres. One hundred and fourteen corporations purchased a total of 8,511 acres under this provision during this fiscal year.

Non-agricultural corporations that are not majority owned by residents, may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding ten acres. Eleven corporations purchased a total of 47 acres under this provision during this fiscal year.

Table II

Comparative Statistics
— Corporate Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1988-89	809	360,903	362*
1989-90	1,071**	801,928	580*
1990-91	1,130**	899,856	571*

**Several transfers may involve one corporation.*
***Includes Crown Corporations.*

B. Applications for Exemption

The Board has the authority to consider applications for exemption which, if approved, allow non-eligible individuals and corporations to have or acquire a land holding in excess of that allowed under the farm ownership provisions of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 123 requests received from non-resident individuals. A total of 66,108 acres was involved. One hundred and three applications totalling 60,175 acres were approved. Twenty requests totalling 5,933 acres were denied.

Table III

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Applications for Exemption

	Approved	Acres	Denied	Acres
1988-89	268	84,572	15	1,995
1989-90	141	78,103	29	2,453
1990-91	103	60,175	20	5,933

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 101 requests for exemption received from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 105,326 acres was involved. All applications were approved.

Table IV

Comparative Statistics
— Corporate Applications for Exemption

	Approved	Acres	Denied	Acres
1988-89	138	134,776	0	0
1989-90	108	131,616	0	0
1990-91	101	105,326	0	0

C. Applications for Extension

The Board has the authority to extend the two-year time period allowed creditors acquiring land by the realization, quit claim, settlement or otherwise of a security.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 235 requests received from financial institutions. A total of 474,260 acres was involved. All requests were approved.

Table V

Comparative Statistics
— Applications for Extension

	Approved	Acres	Denied	Acres
1988-89	69	60,169	0	0
1989-90	231*	146,358	0	0
1990-91	235*	474,260	0	0

**Includes Crown Corporations.*

D. Board Meetings

In addition to considering policy matters and applications for exemption and extension, at 11 meetings held during this fiscal year, the Board classified 8 individuals as "residents" and 12 corporations as "agricultural corporations" for purposes of the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.

The Board also held that 11 non-resident individuals and corporations had acquired an interest in land in violation of the Act's provisions. Compliance with the legislation has been met in five cases. Six cases remain outstanding at year end.